DC

12

WILLIAMSON
BALDEÓN
RAPMUND
LOKUS

SUPERMAN™

A RACE AGAINST TIME--

--TO SAVE LEX LUTHOR!

DAWN OF DC

13+ TEEN

CAN THE DARK KNIGHT DELIVER JUSTICE TO A WORLD GONE MAD?

BATMAN
DARK AGE

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Six 48-page issues starting in **MARCH**

An era-spanning epic from
MARK RUSSELL
and
MICHAEL ALLRED
The Eisner Award-nominated team of
Superman: Space Age

SUPERCORP TOWER. METROPOLIS.

IT'S WORKING.

FOR YEARS MY DEAR BROTHER AND I DREAMED OF METROPOLIS AS OUR VERY OWN PETRI DISH...

"...AND NOW, BEFORE MY VERY EYES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PERISH FROM ADVANCED KRYPTONITE POISONING.

"AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE OF LEX LUTHOR."

THE CHAINED AND PHARM ARE STILL KNOCKED OUT...

BUT I NEED TO GET OUT THERE. STOP LETICIA...

IF YOU DO YOU WILL DIE.

AS YOU SHOULD, SUPERMAN.

YOU REJECTED OUR OFFER TO JOIN OUR LEX LUTHOR REVENGE SQUAD...

NOW YOU WILL PAY. YOUR FATE IS SEALED.

OH, SHUT UP.

TRK

GOD, DID I EVER MONOLOGUE THAT MUCH, SUPERMAN?

SOMETIMES... WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT ARMOR?

I'M GOING OUT THERE. SUPERCORP CAN SECURE ***CHAINED*** AND ***PHARM*** WHILE I STOP MY ***MOTHER*** FROM KILLING ***MY*** CITY.

LUTHOR... I'LL GO.

USE YOUR HEAD. THE ALTERED KRYPTONITE I CREATED HAS ACCELERATED EFFECTS.

IF YOU GOT EVEN A CRACK IN THE ARMOR DURING THE FIGHT, IT WOULD KILL YOU INSTANTLY.

THE SAME GOES FOR ***YOU.***

IT WILL TAKE A BIT LONGER.

JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE SOME LIVES AND POTENTIALLY STOP MY MOTHER.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, SO IF I DIE TODAY...

...SO BE IT.

WE CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS.

YES WE CAN.

AND WE'RE GOING TO HELP HIM.

LL-01?

YES, SUPERMAN. HOW CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?

ACCESS THE ***BUILDING'S*** COMMUNICATIONS... PUT OUT A MESSAGE...

ALL SUPERCORP EMPLOYEES LEFT INSIDE THE BUILDING.

REPORT TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE...

I KNOW WE HAVEN'T SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER...

...AT FIRST, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS SUPER-CORP.

BUT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE NOT JUST METROPOLIS, BUT THE ***WORLD*** A BETTER PLACE.

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS BUILDING, BUT I CAN STILL SAVE METROPOLIS WITH ***YOUR*** HELP.

WHILE LUTHOR ENGAGES WITH LETICIA OUTSIDE, WE WILL ASSIST HIM.

EXPLORE EVERY OPTION. EVERY TOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL. LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

I'VE BEEN TOLD YOU ARE THE FINEST MINDS IN THE WORLD, AND I BELIEVE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A WAY TO REVERSE WHAT PHARM, GRAFT, ***AND*** LUTHOR DID TO CREATE THIS NEW KRYPTONITE GAS ATTACK...

NOW GO.

YES, SIR.

SUPERMAN...?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

KRYPTONITE HAS BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER.

YOU REALLY THINK I HAVEN'T STUDIED IT MYSELF?

YOU WILL HAVE TO REVERSE ENGINEER *MY* WORK, AND THEN COME UP WITH A WAY TO NEGATE ITS EFFECTS IN RECORD TIME.

IN ESSENCE, YOU NEED TO BEAT *MY* OWN GENIUS.

AND?

HM.

BUT TO DO THAT, I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.

GO ON.

TELL ME THE TRUTH.

WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED WITH GRAFT AND PHARM.

...

FINE.

The last son of a dying world, Kal-El came to Earth with powers and abilities beyond those of mortal humans. He was found and raised by a kindly couple in Smallville, Kansas, and imbued with the values of truth and justice by his adoptive parents. Now serving as a reporter for a major metropolitan newspaper, Clark Kent takes to the skies to use his gifts for the betterment of the world as...

SUPERMAN™

Chapter Twelve

When Lex Luthor's past came back to haunt him—in the form of the insidious Dr. Pharm and Mr. Graft—Superman stepped up to help his oldest foe in his time of need. But the skeletons in Lex's closet run deep, and the so-called Lex Luthor Revenge Squad now stands poised to use a plan devised long ago by the man himself to bring Metropolis to its knees...

LEX'S TRUTH

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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

"IT STARTED A LIFETIME AGO, WHEN I FELT LIKE I WAS ALL ALONE IN NOT JUST *SMALLVILLE*... BUT THE *UNIVERSE*...

Welcome to SMALLVILLE

"I FOUND SOMETHING THAT GAVE ME HOPE THINGS COULD BE DIFFERENT."

THERE MUST BE *MORE* HERE.

IT DOESN'T MATCH ANY ELEMENT I'VE SEEN IN ANY BOOK.

UNIQUE.

HOW CAN SOMETHING SO *RARE* AND *PRECIOUS* BE FOUND IN THIS SMALL TOWN?

IT'S PROOF THAT THERE IS SOMETHING SO MUCH *GREATER* OUT THERE.

DID IT JUST DROP... OUT OF THE SKY?

EXCUSE ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY FAMILY'S FARM?

NOTHING YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

LEX, IT'S ME, *CLARK.* WE GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

I WOULD HARDLY CALL THAT PLACE A *SCHOOL.*

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FARMING, I'M SURE MY DAD WOULD LOVE TO SHOW YOU A FEW THINGS...

HOW DARE YOU?

FARMING?!

I WAS JUST... UGH...

...I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

IT'S THE AIR IN SMALLVILLE!

IT REEKS OF *DESPERATION.*

AS SOON AS I CAN, I'M DITCHING THIS TOWN.

"AND I DID. I KNEW THAT MY FUTURE WAS IN..."

"...METROPOLIS.

"THE CITY OF TOMORROW WOULD FINALLY EARN ITS NAME NOW THAT I WAS THERE. MY GENIUS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

"I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT MY TIME AS A HERO!

"THAT I CAME TO THE CITY AND WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE.

"...AND AS YOU'VE MET, I EVEN HAD MY OWN ARCHNEMESES...

DR. PHARM AND MR. GRAFT!

IT'S TIME WE FINALLY END THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

"AFTER MONTHS OF SKIRMISHES, I FINALLY HAD THEM IN MY SIGHTS, BUT THEN..."

WAIT...

"...KRYPTONITE."

"THE SUBSTANCE THAT HAD BEEN MY ***OBSESSION*** SINCE I FOUND THE PIECE IN THAT FIELD BACK IN SMALLVILLE. I NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND IT. NO MATTER THE COST..."

HOW DID YOU FIND MORE?

YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE AND ***HOW*** TO LOOK.

MY BROTHER AND I HAVE BEEN STUDYING IT FOR YEARS.

SO HAVE I. IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN A POWER SOURCE. I BELIEVE IT COULD CHANGE THE WORLD...

WE'RE ALL MEN OF SCIENCE, CORRECT? THERE IS NO GOOD OR BAD. MERELY... ***IDEAS.***

WHAT IF WE SET ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES? WORK ***TOGETHER?***

"WE CAME TO AN UNDERSTANDING. A SHARING OF RESEARCH.

"THE BROTHERS HAD BOMBARDED THE KRYPTONITE WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF RADIATION TO STUDY ITS QUALITIES. TOGETHER, WE NOTICED IT ***REACTED*** TO RADIATION FROM EARTH'S YELLOW SUN..."

AND YOU BETRAYED THEM AND STOLE IT? AND THEN WHAT...RAN THEM OUT OF TOWN?

OUR GOALS DID NOT ALIGN REGARDING HOW TO BEST ***USE*** OUR DISCOVERY.

BUT YES. I TOOK WHAT I NEEDED AND DISCARDED THE BROTHERS WHEN THEY WERE NO LONGER CONVENIENT TO MY--

THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR!

JUST LIKE WHAT YOU DID TO ME!

WHEN YOU CAME TO METROPOLIS, I TOOK YOU IN. SHOWED YOU THE COMPANY I WAS BUILDING.

AND YOU TOOK IT FROM ME!

YOU LACKED VISION, MOTHER.

HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND PHARM AND GRAFT?

I DIDN'T!

THEY FOUND ME!

THOOM

LEX SAID HE HAD BEEN USING SOLAR RADIATION TO ALTER THE KRYPTONITE... TO POWER IT UP. JUST LIKE THE SUN POWERS *ME*...

SUPERMAN, SIR. WE TRIED TO TAKE MS. LANE AND MS. GRAVES TO THE INFIRMARY, BUT THEY REFUSED...

TELL ME HOW WE CAN HELP.

CAN ANYONE FILL ME IN ON WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

YOU OKAY?

I SURE HOPE SO...

WE'LL TALK LATER, MS. LANE.

WE NEED TO RESET THE KRYPTONITE BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE, MERCY.

ONCE WE CRACK *THAT* PROCESS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME WITH THE KRYPTONITE GAS OVER METROPOLIS.

WE NEED SOMETHING THAT CAN *FILTER* IT...

DR. SHAWN. DO YOU HAVE THAT TOXIN FILTER YOU WERE WORKING ON?*

I DO. ONE SECOND.

*FROM *SUPERMAN* #6! --PK

YOU'LL NEED A *MASSIVE BATTERY* THAT CAN DRAIN THE RADIATION...

WE ALREADY HAVE ONE, MERCY. PHARM AND GRAFT SHOWED US FROM THE START...

"PARASITE."

I'VE BEEN GOOD, SUPERMAN. I WANT TO HELP.

AND YOU *ARE*, RUDY.

I PROMISE, I'LL BE WITH YOU THE WHOLE TIME. THIS WON'T HURT.

LENA?

ENERGY TRANSFER STARTING.

YOU SURE THIS IS GOING TO *WORK*, SUPERMAN?

WHEN GRAFT SENT ME BACK IN TIME...

"...I FOUND A VERY YOUNG *PHARM AND GRAFT'S* OWN RESEARCH ON MANIPULATING ELEMENTS. IT GAVE ME A GLIMPSE INTO SOME OF WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING SINCE THEY RETURNED TO METROPOLIS.

HOW'RE YOU FEELING, RUDY?

THIS IS THE BEST MEAL I'VE EVER HAD!

IT'S WORKING! THE SOLAR ENERGY IS DRAINING!

MR. LUTHOR, WE HAVE IT! WE CAN REVERSE WHAT YOU DID TO THE KRYPTONITE!

ELIMINATING THE THREAT IN FRONT OF ME IS MY FIRST PRIORITY. I CAN'T LET MOTHER ESCAPE.

THAK

LUTHOR, PEOPLE WILL DIE.

LISTEN TO ME, SUPERMAN. I KNOW--

NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME.

YOUR PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS SAVING LIVES, NOT TAKING DOWN YOUR MOTHER.

WE'RE SENDING THE DATA TO YOUR SUIT'S COMPUTER. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND OUT A WAVE OF ENERGY INTO THE RADIATION CLOUDS THAT WILL NEGATE THE KRYPTONITE AND DISPERSE THEM.

LUTHOR?

ARE YOU A CHANGED MAN OR *NOT?*

FINE.

TTZZ-WHHOOSSHA

STILL JUST AS FOOLISH AS WHEN YOU WERE A BOY, LITTLE LEXY.

ARMOR...

SWITCH WEAPONS TO ***EXTREME*** MEASURES.

I BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD...

LEX IS ALMOST DONE. THE KRYPTONITE RADIATION CLOUDS HAVE COMPLETELY DISPERSED.

METROPOLIS WILL BE SAVED IF MR. LUTHOR CAN HOLD OUT JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

LL-01?

YES, LENA.

MY GRAND-MOTHER'S ARMOR...

"IS IT CONNECTED TO THE REST OF MY *FATHER'S* ARMOR? TO THE SUPERCORP REMOTE SYSTEMS?"

"YES."

"CAN YOU SHUT IT DOWN?"

"NOT WITHOUT SHUTTING DOWN LEX LUTHOR'S AS WELL."

DO IT.

...AND I CAN TAKE YOU--

MY ARMOR!

WHAT...?

NO!

K-CHOOOM

K-CHOOOM

GOT YA.

SORRY--I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER, BUT I NEEDED TO STOP AT HOME FOR A SPARE CAPE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM METROPOLIS, MOTHER.

WELL... YOU BEAT ME.

I SEE IT MORE AS *WE* BEAT YOU...

LEX!

SUPER-MAN!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

TSH

"WE GOT LUCKY TODAY."

"GRAFT, PHARM, AND THE CHAINED STAYED ***KNOCKED OUT*** AFTER THEY USED THE RED KRYPTONITE ON ME.

"WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP THEM SECURE AT SUPERCORP UNTIL THE POLICE TRANSFER ARRIVED."

"I NOTICED MY OLD FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE ***NOT*** HOUSED WITH ME HERE IN ***STRYKER'S.***"

"THIS IS HARDLY THE LAST WE WILL BE HEARING OF MY ***'REVENGE SQUAD'...***"

"KEEPING THEM ANYWHERE NEAR YOU WAS PLAYING WITH FIRE, SO WE PLACED THEM AT A TEMPORARY OFFSITE HIGH-SECURITY FACILITY UNTIL WE CAN CREATE THE PROPER CELLS FOR THEM HERE."

"I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THEM."

AND EARS, I ASSUME...?

MERCY RAVED ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS AT SUPERCORP TODAY.

I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY EMBRACED WHAT I OFFERED YOU.

THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS ***TOGETHER.***

GOOD PEOPLE WORK AT SUPERCORP, LUTHOR. SO I'LL DO IT ***FOR THEM.***

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO TELL ME...

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW? ANY OTHER LIES?

NOT TO MY RECOLLECTION.

LUTHOR.

NO.

"And you believe him?"

PLANET

HIS HEART RATE DIDN'T BUDGE.

STILL, I MUST ADMIT...

...I LIKED RUNNING SUPER-CORP TODAY. LET ME STRETCH MUSCLES I DON'T NORMALLY GET TO.

MAYBE LEX WAS RIGHT. IT'S BETTER IN YOUR HANDS THAN HIS, ANYWAY.

LOOK AT THIS...

NOT ONLY DID JIMMY **NOT** BURN THE *PLANET* DOWN...HE ACTUALLY GOT THE PAPER OUT THIS MORNING.

Daily Planet

LEX LUTHOR SAVES METROPOLIS?

NOT THE HEADLINE I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN BUT...

HE BLEEDS INK, JUST LIKE YOU, LOIS.

I KNOW... MAYBE IT'S TIME **HE** LEVELED UP, TOO.

BUT NOW THAT THIS IS ALL OVER...

...HOW ABOUT YOU AND I TAKE A QUICK TRIP TO PARIS FOR DINNER? JUST THE TWO OF US...

LOIS... HONEY...

OH NO, I KNOW THAT FACE. WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD, SMALL-VILLE?

THIS GAME WITH LEX ISN'T OVER...

SMASH

THERE IS A MISSING PIECE THAT HAS BUGGED ME SINCE THE START.

FINALLY, THE MAIN MAN IS ***FRAGGING FREE!***

"LEX'S ENEMIES STAYED IN THE SHADOWS FOR ***YEARS***. KEPT ***SECRET.***

"WHY DID THEY DECIDE TO EMERGE AND LOOK FOR REVENGE AFTER ALL THAT TIME...?

WHAT RESTARTED THEIR GAME WITH LEX...?

"WHY NOW?"

WHY NOW, INDEED...

MORE STARTLING REVELATIONS BEGIN IN NEXT MONTH'S EPIC:

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART ONE BEGINS IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064, THEN
BRING IT ON BACK HERE FOR PART TWO IN *SUPERMAN* #13!

OUR HOUSE. NO RULES.

DC

DAWN OF DC

SHAZAM!

#10

JOIN WRITER JOSIE CAMPBELL
AND ARTIST EMANUELA LUPACCHINO
FOR A NEW STORY THAT HITS HOME!

COVER BY DAN MORA

APRIL

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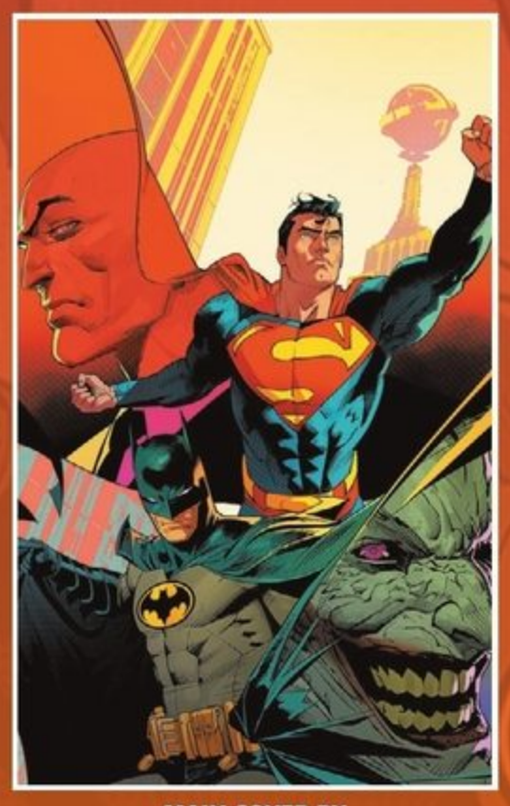
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN • SUPERMAN WORLD'S FINEST #25

Batman/Superman: World's Finest, the acclaimed series that comicbook.com calls "the gold standard at DC Comics," has taken the World's Greatest Heroes on exciting and Earth-bending adventures since its debut in 2022.

This March, join the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel for *Batman/Superman: World's Finest* #25, a can't-miss oversize anniversary issue from series writer Mark Waid and artists Dan Mora and Steve Pugh that will answer burning questions like: What happens when businessman Lex Luthor turns one of his ventures into an unholy alliance with The Joker? And what happens when the Batcave's T. rex comes to life and our heroes must team up with none other than...Abraham Lincoln?

In addition to these exciting stories, legendary actor and pop culture icon William Shatner cameos on a special variant cover by Dan Mora!



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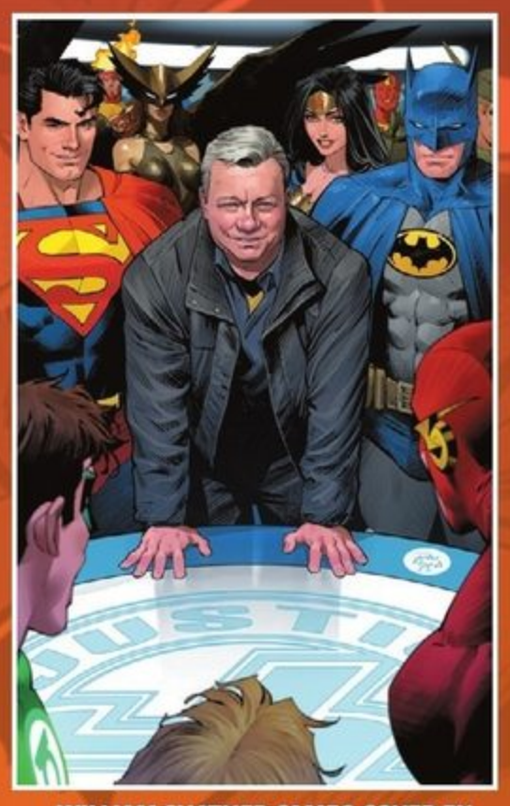
DAN MORA



WILLIAM SHATNER CAMEO COVER BY
DAN MORA

DON'T MISS BATMAN/SUPERMAN: WORLD'S FINEST #25, ON SALE IN MARCH!

Here's a sneak peek at some artwork from the story "Impossible: Prologue":

ART NOT FINAL

ART NOT FINAL

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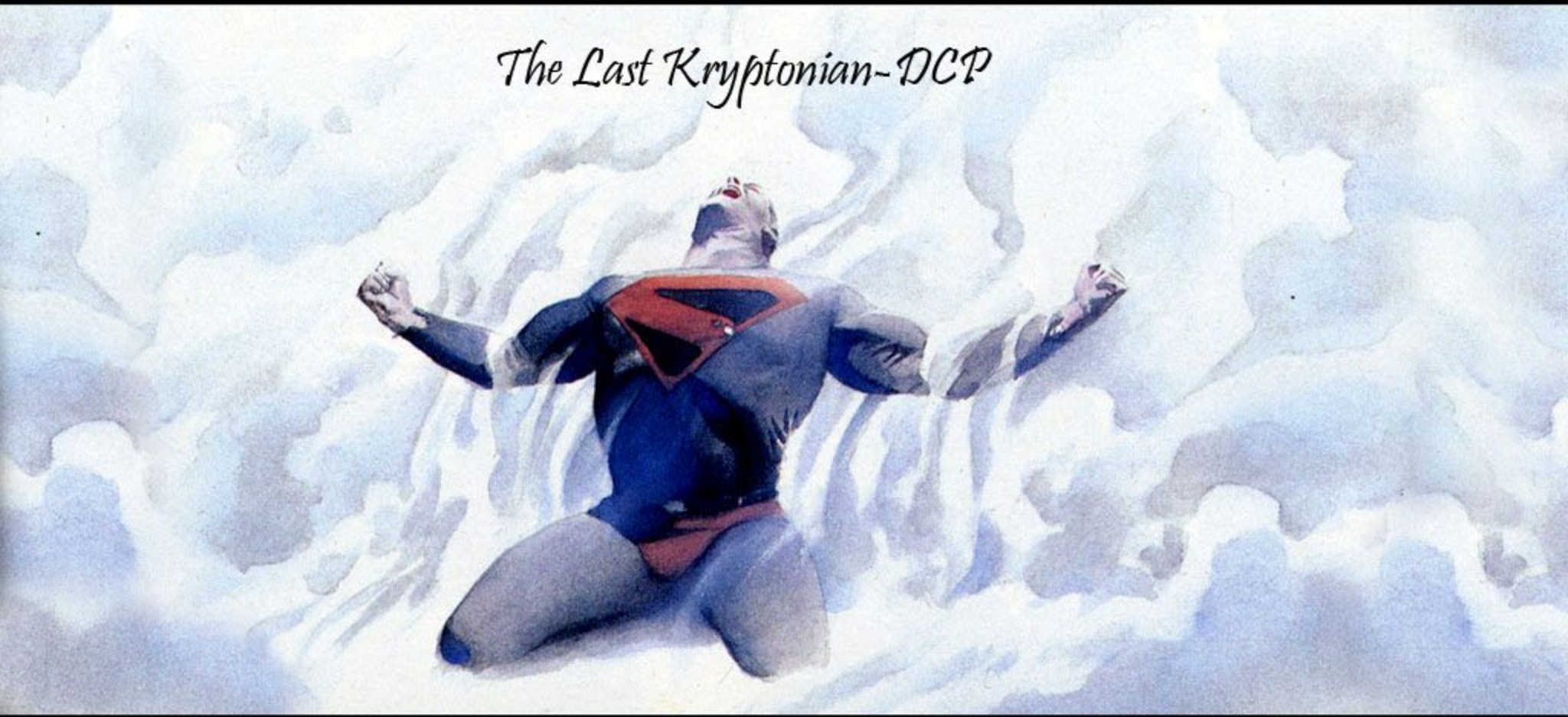
The Last Kryptonian-DCP